



## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

April 9, 2002

The Honorable Tom Daschle  
Senate Majority Leader  
5221 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Trent Lott  
Senate Republican Leader  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Gephardt  
House Democrat Leader  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

We write in support of the President's welfare reform reauthorization plan. The President's welfare reform proposal provides states with the flexibility to use innovative solutions to help welfare recipients achieve self-reliance and independence.

Under the President's proposal, states are empowered to seek innovative solutions to help welfare recipients by focusing on work. The President's universal engagement concept recognizes that moving every welfare family forward means everyone must be engaged in the direction of self-sufficiency. Increasing work requirements has been successful when it's part of an overall approach to reform that includes incentives to transition from welfare to work by providing families with services and benefits including strong employment services, child care assistance, food stamps, income supplements, transportation assistance, and other non-cash work support services.

The President's proposal includes high levels of support to the states for childcare through the Child Care and Development Block Grant. The plan strengthens child support enforcement and provides incentives to encourage healthy marriages and two-parent married families through programs such as pre-marital education and counseling.

The President's plan provides states with more flexibility by establishing broad new waiver authority, which encourages state program innovation. The waiver authority will enable states to improve service delivery and integrate a variety of programs that will improve efficiency.

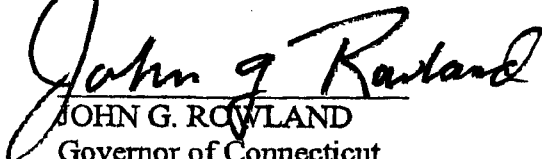



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In view of this, we, the undersigned Governors, respectfully urge the Congress to support the President's welfare reform reauthorization plan.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN G. ROWLAND  
Governor of Connecticut  
Chairman

  
BILL OWENS  
Governor of Colorado  
Vice Chairman